

ARRIVAL OF THE ENGLISH MAIL, VIA SUEZ, AT ALBANY.

(BRUTER'S TELEGRAM.)

ALBANY, SUNDAY.

The P. and O. Company's steamship *Mirazou*, with the English mails to January 25, arrived in King George's Sound at 2 o'clock this morning. The following is her passenger list:—

FOR ADELAIDE: Messrs. Heath and Greig and the Hon. G. Hawker.

FOR MELBOURNE: Mr. and Mrs. Fenton, Mr. and Mrs. Collier and three daughters, Mr. and Mrs. Weeks, Messrs. Fenton, Mackay, Edwards, Vernon, Porter, Chase, Robson, Marshall, Payne, Hankey, Macfarlane, Ducker, Mason, Dunlop, Cuming, Vernon, Thomson, Robinson, Vail, Bosisto, Collett, Bland, Brown, H. Woods, Misses Fenton, Ward, Thomson, Worthington, Madamess Taggart and infant, Franklin, Fox, Bridger, Wilson, Bell, Surgeon-General Clark.

FOR SYDNEY: Mr. and Mrs. Solomons and two daughters, Mr. and Mrs. Bruzzi and two children, Rev. Mr. and Mrs. Goodman, Mr. and Mrs. Chisholm, Mr. and Mrs. Kirby, Sir W. and Lady Manning and three daughters, Rev. W. Mrs. and Miss Scott, Mr. Mrs. and Mrs. Urs, Mr. and Mrs. Greenwood, Mr. and Mrs. Barnett, Mr. and Mrs. Cairns and child, Rev. T. Thomas and child, Mr. and Mrs. Andrews, Madamess Child, Davis and three children, Davies and infant, Lusk and child and Friend, Misses Waugh and maid, Clarke, Lesse, and Neill, the Rev. A. Archdeacon of Newgate, Captain Wilson, Dr. D. McDonald, Messrs. Child, Lesse, Baily, Thornton, Crowe, Head, Manning, Franks, Alexander, Eddie, Watson, Eddie, E. Lilly, Ure, Thomas, House, Darch, Rev. C. Lilly, Surgeon-General Chapple, Captain M'Arthy, the Hon. G. Hope.

FOR NEW ZEALAND: Messrs. Nairn, Chambers, King, Falkner, Rev. J. Plant, Miss Reynolds.

In addition to the above, the *Mirazou* brings 80 other classes, for all ports.

GENERAL SUMMARY.

LONDON, JAN. 25.

It is understood that the Government has resolved that the County Franchise Bill shall take precedence of all other legislation next session. The next measure, if time allows, will be a bill for reorganizing the Government of London, to be followed by a County Government Bill.

Mr. Chamberlain will also be charged with the conduct of bills for the Reform of the Merchants Shipping Act, and the renewal of the Railway Commission.

The first business will, however, be the election of a new Speaker in place of Mr. Brand, who retires, and the appointment of Grand Committee.

Baron de Lesseps has deferred, before asking the shareholders of his company to endorse his agreement with the shipowners, his request for the British Government's approval in writing. At a meeting of the London Chamber of Commerce this week, however, the president expressly declared that the agreement with Baron de Lesseps was strictly a private one, with a special object, and by no means covered all the important interests connected with the Suez Canal, and he thought the country at large should not be committed to it as a settlement of the whole question in dispute with Baron de Lesseps. The chamber has addressed a letter to Lord Granville in this sense. The idea of a second canal is again mooted, in view of the refusal of Baron de Lesseps to abate his pretensions to the exclusive control of the isthmus.

The country hailed with satisfaction and relief the news that Major-General Gordon had been recalled from Brussels, just when on the point of starting for the Congo, and had accepted a special mission to the Soudan, though fears are expressed in many quarters that this step has been too late. Major-General Gordon was met at Port Said by Sir Evelyn Wood. It was at first proposed that he should go to Suez, and thence to Khartoum; but he abandoned that intention, in consequence of information that the only present practicable route to Khartoum was via Korosko. Major-General Gordon reached Cairo last night. He will proceed thence on his journey. Major-General Gordon himself adheres to the evacuation of the Soudan.

Sir Samuel Baker, in a letter to Mr. Ahmed-Bartlett, declares that Major-General Gordon should have been sent to the Soudan months ago, and that the action, which has now been forced by events, upon a reluctant Ministry, may be too late. He concludes by declaring that the conduct of the Government in Egyptian affairs is a national humiliation.

Bossmore have been despatched to bring back the garrison of Sennar. On their return the evacuation of Khartoum will commence.

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CONTINENTAL GOSSIP.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT "STELLA.")

PARIS, JAN. 18.

The "Colonial Question" is overshadowed for the moment by the excitement consequent on the recent visit of the new Prefect of the Seine, respecting the taking away of kitchen detritus from the houses of this city. Up to the present time kitchen refuse, house sweepings, and rubbish, such as broken glass and crockery, dust, ashes, cinders, &c., have been carried out and piled up in a heap at the kerbstone before each house, and thence carted away by the *chiffonniers* (ragpickers) of the capital, a numerous class of the community, forming a total of over 30,000 persons, a large proportion of whom have families to support, and manage to bring up a numerous progeny on the meagre profits of the hook and the shoulder beater. At the present moment the regular army of ragpickers is increased by some 20,000 labouring men out of employ, who have joined the regular ragpickers to keep themselves from starvation. These industries and usually honest people earned before the war an average four francs a day. At present the average gain is but three francs—a very small sum for housing, feeding, and clothing a working man, his wife, and his children. And many of the poor fellows do not gain even that small sum. But, taking even two francs as the average daily (or nightly) gain of these people, 30,000 baskets at two francs each make 100,000 francs per night. A hundred thousand francs per night make three millions per month, thirty-six millions per year, extracted by these hardworking wielders of the hook from the refuse of Paris housekeeping.

Thirty-six millions of francs (one million four hundred and forty thousand pounds sterling) suddenly taken out of the hands of the ragpickers, who are thus, for no fault of theirs, deprived of work and food for themselves and their families in the middle of winter, and just when all the industries of the capital are suffering from unusual and extreme depression. No wonder that for 10 days past the unfortunate ragpickers are declaiming against the new measure, which employs the depositing of household rubbish in boxes of a certain prescribed shape and size, which the concierge of each house is obliged to sort over, and which are to be taken away in carts by a new company, which has farmed the refuse of Paris *en clé*, and expects to make huge profits out of its bargain. The rumour that the new company is English, and that all the rage of the capital goes to make English paper, takes nothing from the anger so generally aroused by the new arrangement. England and everything English is being much out of favour here at present. The clause of the prefectorial decree enjoining on all concierges to see that no broken glass, broken crock, or oyster shells are put into the rubbish-boxes, gives strong colour to the belief that the new arrangement is a gigantic piece of jobbery. The concierges are naturally furious at finding themselves requisitioned for this disagreeable new work, and would certainly disobey the new law if it were not announced with a supplement of fine for all contraventions. What is to be done with the broken crockery and glass and the oyster shells is one of the questions now being angrily asked by the population of Paris, but to which no one seems able to return a satisfactory answer. As every house is now compelled to provide itself with a rubbish box of the prescribed pattern, and as a group of makers of the same, it is now ascertained, had got ready an enormous mass of these boxes before the issuing of the prefectorial decree, the Parisians regard this fact as conclusive proof that the municipal body has been "swindling a penny" in the matter of these receipts, as well as in that of the new dirt brigade. Consequently, everybody is furious on the subject—the landlords at having to buy the boxes and the servants at the fresh restrictions imposed on them, and to the time of bringing down what they want to be rid of, the concierge at having to sort over the unsavoury stuff put into the boxes; and the unfortunate ex-ragpickers, who are threatened with starvation and are getting up petitions to the municipality and the Chamber, praying for a rescinding of the new regulations.

The ragpickers occupy a region of lanes and alleys on the eastern outskirts of the town. They form among themselves a corporation, with its syndic and its officers. Though poor their quarter is decent, and far less miserable than some of the other poor quarters of the town. They have a rough and ready tribunal of their own, exercise a sort of local police, and maintain order and decency in their quarter. There are families of which the men have been *chiffonniers* from father to son for four generations; young ragpickers, called from their special industry by the description, and who having finished their term of service under the flag, come back to their old haunts and resume the business of *chiffonnier*.

The ancient services of *Neuve de St. Geneviève* are just over, having wound up with a slight service at the Pantheon and at the quiet old church of St. Stephen of the Mount. As usual, a brief trade has been driven outside the Church of St. Geneviève, in rosaries, reliques, and reliquaries, prayer-books, and the little prints and pictures which Catholics so generally keep between the leaves of their Bibles. The expatriate chaper having been closed by the municipality, which has voted its destruction, and the opening of a public garden on its site, the apathetic public will attend an anniversary service for the death of Louis XVI., and the *Marie Antoinette* at the Madeleine. It is curious to see by the lists of the grandees brought together by any such celebration, or by some fashion-able wedding or evening party in the "soleil Feubourg," or at the chateaux of the nobility at hunting-parties or other social gatherings, how completely the old birth and wealth of France continue to stand aloof from the Government of the Republic. Not a name among them is to be found in any of the public administrations; all the latter are crowded with new men, for the most part unknown, and principally anxious to "feather their nests" as thickly and as rapidly as possible. The multiplication of places, and even of sinecures is doubly regrettable in view of the stagnation of affairs, and the distress existing among the working population, who are holding meetings, at which their exasperation at the non-fulfilment of the fine promises made to them by Gambetta, and his brother, and their growing discontent with a state of things that makes the poor poorer while making the rich richer, are finding vent in denunciations that body no good to the future. The famous declaration of Proudhon, "Property is robbery," has long been echoed as a truism by the various Socialist groups, without exciting much uneasiness among the more forward classes; but now that Proudhon's saying is supplemented with the cry of "Death to the robbers!" the Government is growing anxious, as will it may. A large and influential meeting of the unemployed (in other words, hungry) workmen of this capital, had a few days ago, though it passed on without any result, has excited serious uneasiness by the energy of its protest against the existing order, and the stern determination to bring about a change in the relations between capital and labour as agreed by the speakers. Unhappily, the rulers of the hour, from M. Ferry downwards, are too much absorbed with their own special hobbies to have time to devote the means of relieving the widespread suffering of the working classes. Yet the millions being wasted in the attempts to found a colonial empire which, judging from the state of things in Algeria, is hardly likely to redound to the benefit either of native or of colonists) might surely have been more usefully employed (supposing they could not have been left in the pockets of the ratepayers) in the execution of public works that would have found work and wages for the unemployed, and in relieving the distress of those who are suffering from illness, accident, and the stagnation of affairs. The ex-ragpickers evidently will not be consoled for the loss of their old trade by learning that the appointment of 150 paid inspectors forms part of the new regime which has deprived them of work and bread.

An astonishing example of the official red-tapeism which is so peculiarly obstructive in France was given a few days since by the refusal of the firemen of the Opera to put out a fire that had just begun to sweep itself in a shop in the Rue Haye, under the very nose of the splendid building to which they are attached. Though the flames were in such close and dangerous proximity to the Opera, the firemen there refused to budge, declaring that their duty was to stop a fire should it break out in the Opera, but that they had nothing to do with a fire in any other building. The needed help was at length procured from the firebrigade of the Rue Blanche; but when they reached the scene of the mischief, the shop, which could easily have been saved if aid had been quickly

on the spot, was already completely gutted, and all that could be done was to prevent the fire from spreading to the rest of the large and costly building above the shop.

Archaeologists and artists are rejoicing over two valuable finds. One is a superb mosaic at Nimes, over 150 feet square, representing a Roman Emperor seated on a throne, with a female figure standing beside him, two other figures of men, holding a lictor and a spear, a warrior with a Roman helmet, and a number of slaves. The Emperor had apparently injured his limbs and colours are as fresh as though dating from yesterday. It is roughly valued at a million of francs; the unfortunate owner of the house in which this fine known mosaic was discovered, had just sold it to the municipality for 50,000 francs. It is to be framed and placed in the museum of the town, as also is the local relic of the Roman period. The second find is one of decorative painting in the former Palace of Cardinal de Rohan, who figured so prominently in the affair of the pearl necklace that hastened the downfall of Louis XVI. and his Queen. The building is now the National Printing Office. A large room was recently cleared, when it was found that the wall papers were painted on canvas. This was removed, and disclosed a dozen of fine panels by Huet

removing scenes in Arcadia. The last survivors of the Battle of Trafalgar had just died at the age of 96. He enjoyed perfect health up to the moment of his death, and the full use of all his faculties. He remembered all the episodes of that sanguinary struggle, and the names of all the 33 vessels that opposed the English fleet.

The medical staff and students of the St. Louis Hospital, in this city, have just given a very original entertainment, in aid of the poor of Paris. The extravagant but amusing dramatic entertainment given on the occasion was called "a polymorphic opera." The consultation room of the hospital, hung with white sheets, and lavishly ornamented, was the theatre; doctors, surgeons, and students were the actors. The play was called "Louis IX." So many persons put their hands to this "broth" of a composition, that they determined to hide their personality behind initials. The music was the work of young doctors. The statue of St. Louis and Montjoie, tired of their pedestals, come down to a walk, fall in love with a young woman, and have a number of adventures. The medical students, who sight a deal of the most hideous splitting drapery, on which the young lady dies. All the seconds and the two principals die during the duel. Then all these dead people join in a spirited chorus, after which they all go to Paradise in a last act, whose irreverence would cause a Puritan's hair to stand on end. A charming actress of the Palais-Royal Theatre personates St. Peter, and says to each applicant, "Have you your ticket?" If the reply is satisfactory the scene changes to a sort of heaven, where the person who has won the lottery is seated at a table, and the other who has lost it is seated at another table, and the two are separated by a high wall. The lottery is won by a *chiffonnier*, and the name of the lottery is "a penny" in the matter of these receipts, as well as in that of the new dirt brigade. Consequently, everybody is furious at finding themselves requisitioned for this disagreeable new work, and would certainly disobey the new law if it were not announced with a supplement of fine for all contraventions. What is to be done with the broken crockery and glass and the oyster shells is one of the questions now being angrily asked by the population of Paris, but to which no one seems able to return a satisfactory answer. As every house is now compelled to provide itself with a rubbish box of the prescribed pattern, and as a group of makers of the same, it is now ascertained, had got ready an enormous mass of these boxes before the issuing of the prefectorial decree, the Parisians regard this fact as conclusive proof that the municipal body has been "swindling a penny" in the matter of these receipts, as well as in that of the new dirt brigade. Consequently, everybody is furious on the subject—the landlords at having to buy the boxes and the servants at the fresh restrictions imposed on them, and to the time of bringing down what they want to be rid of, the concierge at having to sort over the unsavoury stuff put into the boxes; and the unfortunate ex-ragpickers, who are threatened with starvation and are getting up petitions to the municipality and the Chamber, praying for a rescinding of the new regulations.

THE IRON RAILWAY BRIDGE AT ALBURY.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

ALBURY, FRIDAY.

The contract for the erection of the lattice-girder bridge over the Murray at Albury is rapidly approaching completion, the work during the past three weeks having made particularly good progress. All the timber, and the lattice girders, and the sides of the bridge, the lattice work, forming the distinguishing feature or principle in the design, has been completed from end to end of the structure; the ornamental plasters surrounding the standards have been placed in position, and the ironwork has been satisfactorily proof that the municipal body has been "swindling a penny" in the matter of these receipts, as well as in that of the new dirt brigade. Consequently, everybody is furious at finding themselves requisitioned for this disagreeable new work, and would certainly disobey the new law if it were not announced with a supplement of fine for all contraventions. 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Auction Sales.

O N D R E O F S A L E.

THE NEW AUCTION MART, 197, PITT-STREET.

THIS DAY, 3rd March. Sale of photos

At 11 a.m.—Books, as Thirlmere (vide

adv't); and at 2.30 p.m., French Clocks

of artistic design and latest novelties.

TUESDAY, 4th March. At 11 a.m., Refreshments, Co's Var-

ishes, Paints, &c., Cutlery, Metal Pictures,

Watches, Books, &c., Pictures, &c.,

Hats, Hosiery, Ale, &c., Candies,

Raspins, Curios, Oliver's Stores, &c.,

and with 11 a.m., ex Kempt, 100, Pitt-

Street, on TUESDAY NEXT, at 2.30 p.m., weekly

sale of colonial-made furniture.

WEDNESDAY, 5th March. At 11 a.m., Iron and Brass Bedsteads,

Cots, Stretchers, Hair-wares, Looking

Glasses, Alab. 11 a.m., 100, Pitt-Street,

Plates, Glassware, Pittings, &c., Fix-

tures; and at 2.30 p.m., Chandelles,

Pipes, Tubing, &c.

THURSDAY, 6th March. At 11 a.m., Mantel Mirrors, Piano-fortes,

American Organs, &c. Also at 11 a.m.,

100, Pitt-Street, 100, Pitt-Street, Furniture and Effects, under instructions from Mr. Alexander

Harris.

Extensive Unreserved Clearance Sale of

Balanced Shipments of Furniture, Franchises, &c., Household Goods, Books, &c.,

Hats, Hosiery, Ale, &c., Candies, Raspins,

